THE EXCITER

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SPECIAL NOTICE

Roemer O. "Doc" Best, West Gulf Division Director of ARRL, will be the guest speaker at the July 6th meeting of the San Antonio Radio Club. All amateurs are invited to attend this meeting. The time: 8 PM Friday July 6. The place: Durham's School of Electronics, 105 San Pedro at Romana Plaza.

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WEST GULF DIVISION CONVENTION

AUGUST 3, 4, & 5, 1962

The West Gulf Division ARRL Convention will be held in Corpus Christi, Texas, August 3-5 at beautiful newly remodeled Robert Driscoll Hotel with the Corpus Christi Amateur Radio Club as host. The club station W5MS will be active during the convention.

There will be a Pre-Convention Party on the beautiful Corpus Christi Bay Front on Friday night, August 3rd., which will be free to all who pre-register prior to July 15. Those who pre-register will also be eligible for the Pre-Registration Prize which will be the sensational new Hammarlund HX-50. Registration is $10.00, which includes all general functions and prize drawings. The Grand Prize will be the Hallicrafter SX-115 Receiver.

There will be Transmitter Hunts on two or three bands with Prizes for the winners. Program topics range from home construction projects to future communication developments. A Royal Order of the Wouff Hong initiation is scheduled. An F.C.C. representative is expected to be on hand.

John Huntoon, WILVQ, Secretary & General Manager from ARRL Headquarters will attend and our West Gulf Division Director, Dr. R. O. "Doc" Best, W5QKF will be on hand.

Ladies: Come on with the OM and have a wonderful time at the convention. Besides the dance Saturday night and banquet Sunday for everyone registered the ladies will have a Saturday morning get-acquainted coffee and noon luncheon which will include entertainment and prizes. For the licensed Y L's there will be a delightful surprize Sunday morning. Free time may include boat rides, a trip to Padre Island, swimming on the beach, shopping or just relaxing.

Holland Henderson, W5AQK, is Convention Chairman and his convention address is P. O. Box 2073, Corpus Christi, Texas.

Come and have a good time with the other 750 expected to attend.

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VHF AND UP

A number of local amateurs report listening for Astronaut Carpenter but success was not as good as with Lt. Col. Glenn's flight. All reported signals from the capsule on 15.015 mc. as very weak. W5HFF, Ross Lawler, took time out from college exams at St. Mary's U. to listen to Carpenter while he was working a radar tracking station in New Mexico. K5PKX, M.D. Harris, heard the capsule twice real weak. However, everyone heard the Cape, Corpus Christi, and the west coast stations quite well.

Everyone waits eagerly for the orbiting of OSCAR II, which can come at any time. Listen to WIAW frequencies listed in QST for special announcements. During the 3-week life of OSCAR I, over 5,000 tracking reports were filed by 600 stations in 31 countries. The accuracy of amateur Doppler tracking was reported to be good. Send in any reports of any passes you hear per directions in QST.

Locally, W5UB, Irv Seligman, has contributed in no small way to the success of the OSCAR Project. Irv has supplied printed circuit boards for the transmitter portion to W6TNS, Don Stoner, who spear-headed much of the project. Irv also reports the number of SSB stations on 50 mc. is picking up and that he works several such stations during each band opening.

W5VPQ, George Munsch, is back in town after a stint in Virginia. He has worked 14 states on 50 mc. wideband FM on 52.5 mc. Recently, while checking with his wife, Ella, W5TSE, he worked Colorado. This is not ordinarily unusual except that George was using his GE handie-talkie running one watt into a 3 ft. whip; and the Colorado station was mobile W8MWO/O! Of

Editor ---------- K5PKX
VHF Editor ---------- W5LFM
DX Editor ---------- W5LGG
40 Meter Editor ---------- K5MOF
SSB Editor ---------- W5BVI
Circulation Manager ----- K5OPT

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THE SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB, W5SC
W5IWE, Pres. K5VCR, V. P.
W5EDZ, Sec. K5UKN, Treas.

course, summertime is when we have all the fun with Sporadic E!

Of the 100-odd orbiting objects, 12 of them are transmitting on 17 different frequencies. Other than 108 and 136 mc., the most interesting are: Explorer VII, 19.990 mc.; Cosmos II, 20.005 mc.; Transit IIA, 162.00 and 216.00 mc.; and Transit IVA, 54 and 150 mc. The little "grape-fruitnik" Vanguard I is still transmitting on 108.022 mc. and has been doing so for over four years now! Its signal, however, is getting weaker and squeekier with time, having fallen below the original five full milliwatts it was running. Most of this is due to damage to the solar cells and not the transistor transmitter.

And don't forget ECHO I. It still shines brightly in the evening as a first magnitude star, tho it is now being called "pruneface" it has become so wrinkled. But so it goes!

Regards,
Cal Graf, W5LFM.

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DX NOTES By W5LGG

Interesting Coincidences: Last summer, June and July 1961, as the Zurich sunspot numbers dropped lower and lower, DX conditions were so bad some complained that they couldn't even hear their own signals. The DX outlook was bleak. We were and are still on our way down in the sunspot cycle and the only prospect was fro even worse conditions. In August, the Russians resumed nuclear testing; and DX men still talk about the marvelous band conditions that prevailed for several weeks thereafter. Late September and October saw band conditions return to a "normal" miserable state. Anything south of Commerce Street was considered DX. In November, both the U. S. and Russia orbited satellites and band conditions parked up noticeably. But again the band miseries returned, and the Radio doldrums followed until Glenn's orbit in February. Then the bands opened up beautifully, only to fall back to normal in a week or so and remained poor until mid-May when the U. S. nuclear test series in the Pacific began.

Band conditions have been absolutely marvelous ever since. Of course the tests are still in process, and Carpenter has orbited the Earth in the past few weeks which only adds interest to this chain of events.

There is no scientific evidence I know of to support the obvious conclusion we can draw from this series of coincidences. To the contrary, it is now well established that a U. S. high altitude nuclear shot in 1958 literally blew a hole in the ionosphere, disrupting all normal skip propagated communications. From my location at KX6CD I still recall how utterly dead all bands were for some four days after the shot. UHF benefitted temporarily from that blast, however, and commercial signals near 400 Mc. carried from Hawaii to Samoa for several hours after. So the picture remains confused, and no one can say with surety that orbital flights or low altitude nuclear tests have any connection at all with the amazing band conditions that have followed such events. But the coincidence does lead to some thoughtful head scratching.

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Well, if conditions have been so good lately, you ask, what's new in DX? Much, is the answer. For example, tune 14113 between four and eight A.M. and hear CR8AB, the first active station from Timor in over 6 years. Joao puts a nice 569 signal into W-land, peaking between 6:30 and 7:30 for W5's. Working CR8AB is a real challenge and will result in a pasteboard well earned. The CR1Ø prefix that used to be Timor has been dropped and CR8 substituted since Goa's takeover by India. That big pile-up on 14060 is after 4U1ITU.. This, the station of the International Telecommunications Union, has been ably operated by W4KVX of DX magazine. Rumor has it that this United Nations offshoot at Geneva may be accorded DXCC country status; but the yardbirds say don't bet on it. Another rare one is XØMLY/TR8 and TL8. Dick frequents 14000 Kc, operating both CW and SSB from that spot. He will tell you where to call. Dick's agenda includes TT8 and TY2, so monitor that low band edge every evening when you get home from work.

The Lord Howe Island (VK2VC/VK2) and Wallis Island (FW8BH) DX-peditions are still scheduled; and Gus Browning (presently VQ9A) promisses more rare DX soon on his round-the-world trip. Regulars ZK1AA, VR1G, UH8AN, ZC4SP, 5H3GC, VQ8AM continue to liven the scene, so join in on the fun, and let me know what you work.

37 & DX,
Len

SSB IN AND AROUND SAN ANTONIO

That time has arrived again without much news but here goes. The bands have been very erratic the past month. Bands open up at the least expected times. There have been a few openings into Eureope. The activity from the Pacific Islands has picked up a lot during the past weeks. Just a few that have been worked on both 15 and 20 meters are VR3S, KP6's, KB6's and KJ6's. Most of their stations have trouble getting mail because of transportation, so just hang on and the cards will arrive. The people on these islands need traffic handled so give them a call and take their traffic and those QSL's will surely arrive.

By the way, all those K Prefixes should give you the worked 20 K prefixes award. A few new certificates have come up this month, such as "Worked Ole Miss", WACN (Worked all Counties Nebraska), Tar Heel 30 (Worked 30 North Carolina Counties) and the Twin City Award (Worked pairs of cities with the same name or similar names). Ruth, K5OPT, finally got that much needed South Carolina card for her Colonial Award, (Worked each of the 13 original Colonies on 2 bands). I still need Maryland on 20 meters so I should make it soon.

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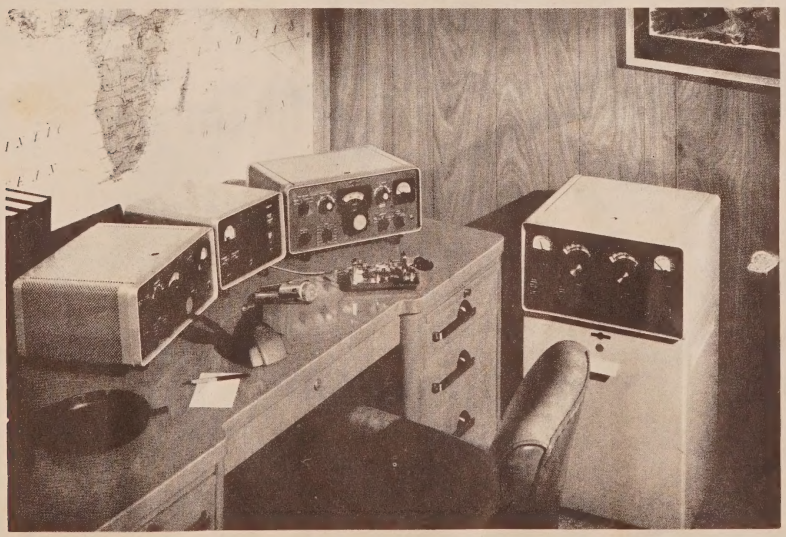

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I received some comments about the U. S. Senate Bill S-2361. It seems that I forgot to say U. S. Senate Bill. From reports, the Bill has a good chance of passing but get a letter off to your Senator requesting his support. This bill should promote better understanding and friendship with foreign Amateurs.

There is some new equipment which is due out on the market soon. The R.L. Drake Co. is in the process of bringing out a new SSB Transceiver. From comments on the air of those who have seen this little box, it looks good and should really sell. Knowing Drake equipment it has to be good. The Sonar people are putting out pictures of one they plan on building. The picture shows a fine looking, small, rig. The results of their work isn't known. The prices of both rigs are very reasonable, so we should have more sidebanders in the near future. Be seeing you around the upper end of 15 or 20 meters strictly SSB.

73
Mac W5BVI

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With the Bexar County AREC

Field Day rapidly approacheth. Good luck and Hail to our Alma Mater W5SC.

During the month of June lousy band conditions were encountered by one and all. Thanks to the old faithfuls: K5MOF, K5GHH, K5UWS, K5TGA, K5TSZ, W5KCZ, K5FRF, K5BDR, K5PKX and others.

New AREC net directories have been published and will be in the mail soon to all members.

The Bexar County Six Meter Net now holds its regular session on 50820kc at 0200 GMT on Fridays (2000 CST Thursdays). Some of the net members say they have listened on the net frequency and not heard anything. Maybe the above information will correct this situation. anyone wishing to volunteer for alternate net control station for the Six Meter Net contact K5PKX.

Welcome to our new neighbors K5HRF, Joe formerly of Big Wells and W5BXD formerly of Alpine. This used to be a quiet neighborhood but now the neighbors hens won't even lay with all this chatter. Hi Joe!

Skinny Charlie, K5VCR, says there is something afoot to establish a frequency on Six Meters for locals to monitor and use as a calling frequency. More on this next issue.

No catastrophies were reported averted due to Amateur Radio during this period. Further deponent sayeth not.

73

Lee K5HZR
EC San Antonio/Bexar County

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